

Corps of Engineers continue supporting local communities with flood fights

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Contact: Public Affairs 206-764-3750 or the Information Line for recorded updates at 1-866-596-2635

SEATTLE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Reservoir Control Center and Emergency Operations Center remains in 24-hour operation.

Corps flood teams are currently out on the Olympic Peninsula, and in the Snohomish, Skagit, Green, Chehalis, Nooksack and Yakima river basins -- 55 flood fighters remain deployed.

Major and widespread flooding throughout the region prompted increases in flood fighting activity over the last 24 hours. Currently, the Corps is making repairs to the River Road Levee on the Nooksack River and the Ebey Slough Levee on the Snohomish River.

Today, the Corps of Engineers continues with flood fight efforts along the South Skagit Highway. The Corps also is finishing constructing a berm across Thunder Road to protect the Quileute property.

In Eastern Washington, the Corps is flood fighting at the Jeffries Road Levee near Ellensburg and at the City of Yakima's sewage treatment plant levee.

The Corps has provided more than 100,000 sandbags to local governments.

"The Corps has teams of emergency responders that assist in floods and natural disasters and they are supporting local governments as requested," said Seattle District Emergency Management chief Paul Komoroske.

Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share in the repair of flood protection structures. The purpose is to prevent loss of life and minimize property damage associated with severe weather.

The Corps currently is operating dams in the White/Puyallup, Green/Duwamish and Wynoochee basins for flood risk reduction.

Mud Mountain Dam on the White River (which feeds the Puyallup) is releasing under 10,000 cfs (cubic feet per second). The purpose of the release is to evacuate stored flood water from the reservoir before another weather event. When flows peaked at the Puyallup River at 41,500 cfs, the Corps was not releasing any water. Without operations of Mud Mountain Dam, flows would have been 70,000 cfs.

Currently Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River is releasing 6,500 cfs outflow; while receiving 8,100 cfs of inflow. The plan is to start to evacuate stored flood waters from the reservoir today.

The Corps also is in control of Wynoochee Dam and is evacuating stored flood water. Inflows are 1,500 cfs with outflows at 3,200 cfs.

For more information on the Corps, and up-to-date river forecasts, go to www.nws.usace.army.mil and click on Rivers and Reservoirs. Lake and river information is available at:
<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/>

Private citizens seeking sandbags should contact their local government offices.

The National Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.